

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003. As this paper is filed on January 12, 2004 with a one month extension of time, the paper is timely filed.

I. Status of Amendments

Claims 1-20 were pending prior to this amendment. By this amendment, applicants amend claims 1, 11 and 20, and cancel claims 6 and 16 without prejudice to refile.

Because applicant previously paid fees for 3 independent claims and 20 total claims, applicant's amendments do not require a further fee to be paid.

II. Response to Office Action

In the September 25 Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Noguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,161). Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the limitations of claims 6 and 16, respectively, and have the following comments regarding the rejections based on Noguchi et al.

Claim 1 recites a method for scrolling an image to be presented on a display unit. The method includes storing image data of a first image area in a frame buffer, wherein the first image area is larger than a second image area that can be presented on the display unit and contains the second image area. The method also includes addressing the frame buffer in a manner dependent on first address information items that define the position of the second image area within the first image area, and reading corresponding image data from the frame buffer and presenting the corresponding image data on the display unit in the form of the second image area. The method further includes changing the first address information items in order to scroll the second image area presented on the display unit. Additionally, the method includes subdividing the first image area into a plurality of image area sections and assigning the image data of a corresponding memory section of the frame buffer to each image area section through the use of corresponding second address information items, the second address information items each having a fixed assignment to a corresponding image area section within the first image area, and defining a boundary for the position of the

second image area within the first image area by utilizing the first address information items. Moreover, the method includes monitoring the position of the second image area within the first image area with respect to the boundary, and loading new image data into specific memory sections of the frame buffer that are assigned to the image area sections of the first image area that are the furthest away from a specific boundary location in a direction opposite to a scrolling direction when the boundary is reached at the specific boundary location on account of scrolling of the second image area, and correspondingly changing the second address information items in such a way that the first image area is extended in the scrolling direction by the image area sections which are the furthest away from the specific boundary location in the direction opposite to the scrolling direction and for which new image data have been loaded into the specific memory sections.

However, Noguchi et al. does not have, for example, the second address information items each having a fixed assignment to a corresponding image area section within the first image area. In the September 25 Office Action, reliance was placed on lines 16-25 of the Abstract as disclosing second address informational items each having a fixed assignment to a corresponding image area section within the first image area. However, applicant believes that it would be more instructive to view this in context with lines 9-15, such that Noguchi et al. states that:

[A]t least image data corresponding to a third area of the first predetermined-sized area, which protrudes from the second predetermined-sized area, which is in the outside of the first predetermined-sized areas the first predetermined-sized area scrolls on the second predetermined-sized area, and an image display controlling unit for controlling the apparatus such that an image is displayed on the screen of the image display device by changing a reading address for the buffer memory to an address of the fourth area and by reading out data of the first predetermined-sized area based on the changed address at the boundary of the first predetermined-sized area when the first predetermined-sized area protrudes from the second predetermined-sized area as the first predetermined-sized area scrolls on the second predetermined-sized area.

From this passage, and with reference to the drawings of Noguchi et al., it would appear that the allegedly corresponding second address informational items do not have a fixed

assignment to a corresponding image area section within the first image area (e.g., upper left hand corner). Instead, the allegedly corresponding second address information item appear to be assigned to the upper left hand corner of the allegedly corresponding first image area prior to the allegedly corresponding extension, and the lower right hand corner of the allegedly corresponding first image area after the allegedly corresponding extension. Consequently, it is applicant's position that Noguchi et al. does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, and that, given the differences between Noguchi et al. and the subject matter of claim 1, Noguchi et al. does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 1 either.

Given that claims 2-5 and 7-10 depend from claim 1 and that claim 1 is distinguishable from Noguchi et al., so too are claims 2-5 and 7-10. Moreover, it is applicant's position that the arguments distinguishing claim 1 from Noguchi et al. are applicable with equal force to claim 11, and thus claim 11 also is patentable over Noguchi et al. It further follows that as claim 11 distinguishes Noguchi et al. and claims 12-15 and 17-20 depend from claim 11, these claims are patentable over Noguchi et al. as well.

As an aside, applicant amended claim 20 to correct a typographical error that occurred at filing. With the amendment, claim 20 now recites that the image area section is "512 \times 384 pixels." Applicant does not believe that this amendment changes the scope of the claim, but merely corrects an apparent typographical error.


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

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By:


Paul C. Craane
Registration No. 38,851
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300